श्री सभापति: आप देना चाहते हैं या नहीं, यह बता दीजिए क्योंकि Question Hour खत्म हो रहा है।

श्री प्रियरंजन दास मुंशी: सभापति महोदय, सूखाग्रस्त इलाके के बारे में हम नया चिंतन शुरू कर रहे हैं और इस बारे में अगले महीने निर्णय लेने के बाद ही मैं कुछ बता पाऊंगा।

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over. Papers to be laid on the Table.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

ONGC'S Joint venture in Sudan

*201. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that commercial poduction of crude oil in Sudan through joint ventures of ONGC Videsh and Sudanese Government has started;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantity and the rate at which crude oil from Sudan will be available to India?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Of the three Joint Ventures (JVs) formed by ONGC-Videsh Limited (OVL) in E&P projects in Sudan, only the Greater Nile Oil Project (GNOP) is in commercial production. When OVL acquired 25% stake in the GNOP, Sudan on 12.3.2003, the project was already in commercial production.

(c) The total annual crude oil production from GNOP, Sudan during 2003-04 was 13.291 million metric tons (MMT), out of which OVL's equity share was 3.323 MMT. Out of the projected annual production of 14.50 MMT of crude oil from the project for the year 2004-05, OVL's equity share would be 3.625 MMT.

After making provisions for statutory levies like royalty, taxes, etc., to the Government of Sudan, the balance crude oil is available to OVL for sale at prevailing market price.